



# Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road  
Groton, CT 06340-4394  
Town Clerk (860)441-6640  
Town Manager  
(860)441-6630

## Meeting Minutes

### Representative Town Meeting

**Representatives Jeff Armstrong, Joe Baril, Tom Barnhart, Lori Bartinik, Alicia Bauer, Genevieve Cerf, Wayne Chiapperini, Michael Collins, Joe delaCruz, Luanne DeMatto, Susan Dowling, Shirley Dunbar-Rose, George Edwards Jr, Robert Garcia, Patrice Granatosky, Dolores Harrell, Barbara Hoelck, David Miner, Nancy Mitchell, Deborah Monteiro, Matt Morton, Scott Newsome, John Nugent, Nora Patterson, Darcy Peruzzotti, Kevin Power, Don Pratt, Rita Schmidt, Jack Sebastian, Jennifer Smuts, Eleanor Steere, Fritz Stein, Joan Steinfeld, Irma Streeter, Mark Svencer, George Swift, Patti Thunberg, Cheryl Tilney, Tom Vivirito, Robert Walker Sr, and Elizabeth Weil.**

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Wednesday, June 8, 2005

7:30 PM

Senior Center

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#### Regular Meeting

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#### A. ROLL CALL

*Moderator Shirley Dunbar-Rose called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.  
23 members were present and a quorum was declared.*

Members Present: Rep. Barnhart, Rep. Bartinik, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Collins, Rep. Dunbar-Rose, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Harrell, Rep. Miner, Rep. Mitchell, Rep. M. Morton, Rep. Nugent, Rep. Patterson, Rep. Power, Rep. Schmidt, Rep. Sebastian, Rep. Smuts, Rep. Steere, Rep. Stein, Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Svencer, Rep. Swift and Rep. Tilney

Members Absent: Rep. Armstrong, Rep. Baril, Rep. Cerf, Rep. Chiapperini, Rep. delaCruz, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Dowling, Rep. Edwards, Jr., Rep. Garcia, Rep. Hoelck, Rep. Monteiro, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Peruzzotti, Rep. Pratt, Rep. Thunberg, Rep. Vivirito, Rep. Walker, Sr. and Rep. Weil

*Also present were Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent, Finance Director Sal Pandolfo, Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox and Assistant Town Clerk Sally Whitney.*

#### B. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

*The members observed a moment of silence followed by the Salute to the Flag led by Rep. Nugent*

#### C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*A motion to approve the minutes of April 13, 2005 was made by Rep. Smuts, seconded by Rep. Miner and so voted unanimously.*

*A motion to approve the minutes of the Annual Budget Meeting was made by Rep. Smuts, seconded by Rep. Miner and so voted unanimously.*

#### D. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

*None*

#### E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS

*The Moderator announced that each member should have received a copy of the Sewer Bonding Ordinance that was introduced at the Council meeting on June 7, 2005. The public hearing will be held on June 21, 2005 at either the Town Hall Annex or the Senior Center at 7:30 p.m. The Moderator reported that Rep. DeMatto is out of town on business and that Reps. Dowling, Monteiro, Thunberg and Vivirito are unable to attend.*

**2005-0134**

#### **Acceptance of Open Space at Brookview Estates Subdivision**

#### **RESOLUTION ACCEPTING OPEN SPACE AT BROOKVIEW ESTATES SUBDIVISION**

WHEREAS, the original subdivision named Brookview Estates was approved in 1988, and

WHEREAS, a deed for an open space parcel was signed in 1990 but was not recorded in Land

Records, and

WHEREAS, the Groton Planning Commission on April 12, 2005, recommended acceptance of the open space parcel, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town of Groton accepts the open space designated on a map labeled Brookview Court, and that this matter be referred to the Representative Town meeting.

**This matter was Referred to the RTM Public Works Committee, due back on July 13, 2005. The motion carried.**

**2005-0133 Acceptance of Parcel of Land at Brookview Estates Subdivision**

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A PARCEL OF LAND AT BROOKVIEW ESTATES SUBDIVISION

WHEREAS, the plans for the Brookview Estates subdivision included a parcel designated for the future location of a sewer pumping station, and

WHEREAS, the deed for the conveyance of the parcel to the Town was signed in 1990 but not recorded in Land Records, and

WHEREAS, the Groton Planning Commission on April 12, 2005, recommended that the Town formally accept this parcel, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town of Groton accepts the parcel of the Brookview Estates Subdivision indicated on the map labeled Brookview Court, and that this matter be referred to the Representative Town Meeting.

**This matter was Referred to the RTM Public Works Committee, due back on July 13, 2005. The motion carried.**

**2005-0185 Road Acceptance**

ACCEPTANCE OF CAPSTAN AVENUE EXTENSION IN THE CHRISSOS SUBDIVISION

WHEREAS, at its meeting on May 24, 2005, the Planning Commission recommended the acceptance of Capstan Avenue Extension in the Chrissos Subdivision, now therefore be it  
RESOLVED, that the Representative Town Meeting hereby accepts Capstan Avenue Extension in the Chrissos Subdivision.

**This matter was Referred to the RTM Public Works Committee, due back on July 13, 2005. The motion carried.**

**F. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:**

**1. Financial report**

*Mr. Vincent reported that the General Contingency balance for FYE 2005 will be \$81,400 after the Fourth Quarter Transfers which appear on the agenda for this meeting.  
He reported that the Capital Reserve Fund balance increased from \$3,158,028 to \$3,192,192 and that the increase was due to interest income.*

**2. Monthly briefing**

*Mr. Vincent reported that five regional development and infrastructure projects are included in the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) plan. He stated that the inclusion of a project in the CEDS regional implementation plan is an important element in qualifying the project for State or Federal support that may be available.  
He praised the Groton Senior Center for receiving an "Outstanding Programs" award from the Connecticut Association of Senior Center Personnel.  
Mr. Vincent announced that seven Groton children will be participating at a Tim Horton*

*Children's Foundation camp for a week.*

*He stated that the Federal Railway Administration issued its final ruling regarding the establishment of a quiet zone to become effective on June 24th. The Town Staff will need to review the final regulations and are anticipating a quiet zone to be in effect at School Street, West Mystic sometime this summer.*

*Lee Vincent responded to Rep. Sebastian that residential market values and revaluation information can be provided in the fall.*

*Finance Director, Sal Pandolfo stated that CLT, the company performing the revaluation will be available and plans to attend an RTM meeting this fall to explain the revaluation process. CLT should be able to provide estimated market analyses and values at that time.*

## **G. LIAISON REPORTS**

### **1. Town Council - Rep. Cerf**

*No meeting, no report.*

### **2. Economic Development Commission - Rep. Schmidt**

*No meeting, no report.*

### **3. Town Council/Board of Education Liaison Committee - Rep. Patterson**

*Rep. Patterson attended a meeting on May 18, 2005. The meeting's focus was on the process and time line for the BRAC final decision. She stated that either the President or Congress can stop the process, but that five out of nine votes from the BRAC are needed to remove the Groton Sub Base from the list. She reported that if the base is closed, the closure will begin within two years and that it will take up to six years for the process to be complete.*

*The Town Clerk stated that the current legislative session is considering the extension of the current conveyance tax and if this bill fails to pass or is not voted on in the current session, the Town would lose approximately \$800,000 to \$900,000 a year.*

### **4. Permanent School Building Committee - Rep. Miner**

*Rep. Miner stated for the record that the brief summary he provides each month to the RTM is only a glimpse of what is actually discussed and reviewed. He stated that in light of BRAC, it is still the Town's position to continue the school projects as planned and upon completion, to evaluate the program and establish the future educational needs of the Town.*

*He reported that the Gilbane Company has been chosen as Construction Services Manager on Phase One of the school project and that a contract has been signed. He stated that design work continues for the access road to the Freeman Hathaway site, and that an overview and latest schematic design for Fitch High School was presented.*

*The interim archeologist report on the King property was received with recommendations for no further action.*

### **5. P.B.F.D. Consolidation Review Committee - Reps. Steinfeld & Svencer**

*Rep. Steinfeld reported that the May meeting was cancelled and a meeting is scheduled for next week.*

### **6. Economic Development Strategic Planning Steering Ctee - Reps. Dowling & Mitchell**

*No meeting, no report.*

### **7. Shellfish Task Force - Rep. Svencer**

*Lee Vincent reported that new testing equipment is in place in the Fort Hill Homes sewer lines. It has enabled the WPCF to locate 3 specific pollution locations. Video equipment will now be used to check for actual breaches in the sewer lines. He reported that the grassy shores along the Poquonnock River, Burrows Field and Depot Road park will not be cut this season in an attempt to dissuade the geese from using those areas*

## **H. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**1. FINANCE****a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Schmidt**

*Chairman Schmidt read the minutes of the meeting held on June 8, 2005. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. Smuts and so voted unanimously.*

**2005-0116      Transfer of Unexpended CIP Funds to Board of Education****RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING OF UNEXPENDED CIP FUNDS TO BOARD OF EDUCATION**

WHEREAS, the Town Council and RTM approve Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) through the budgetary process, and

WHEREAS, during the length that a CIP appropriation is valid, the project may come in under budget, leaving funds in the Capital Reserve Fund's fund balance, and

WHEREAS, occasionally CIP projects may come in over budget, at which time other funds may be necessary to complete the projects, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council and RTM may reappropriate unexpended CIP funds to CIP projects that have come in over budget, and

WHEREAS, this situation has occurred with current CIP projects associated with the Board of Education, be it

RESOLVED, that: CIP#5H (Eastern Point; fire code improvements) be reduced by \$42,045 to \$37,955 and CIP#5J (Mary Morrison; parking lot) be increased by \$22,270 to \$92,270 and that a FYE 2005 CIP#5E be created in the amount of \$19,775 (West Side Middle; gym floor).

**A motion was made by Rep. Schmidt, seconded by Rep. Miner, that this matter be Adopted.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**2005-0132      FYE 2005 Fourth Quarter Transfers****RESOLUTION FOR FYE2005 FOURTH QUARTER TRANSFERS**

WHEREAS, the Town Charter provides for supplemental appropriations to the Adopted Budget and transfers from the Contingency function during the year, and

WHEREAS, the Town Charter also provides for the transfer of funds from one departmental function to another departmental function during the last three months of the fiscal year, and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that the following departments/functions require a transfer from the Contingency function in order that they not be overdrawn as of June 30, 2005, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that \$172,600 be transferred from the General Fund Contingency, function #1074, to the following departments/functions and referred to the RTM for approval:

Public Safety/Patrol (#10243-5109) -- \$82,000;

for payment of leave balances for 9 employees due to their retirement.

Public Works/Public Buildings (#10352-5260) -- \$30,000;

for funding of water heater at the Police Station that recently failed. .

Public Works/Snow and ice Control (#10356-5104) -- \$19,200;

for overtime payments due to abnormally severe winter.

Public Works/Snow & Ice (#10356-5300) -- \$41,400;

for purchase of additional sand and salt this winter.

**A motion was made by Rep. Schmidt, seconded by Rep. Miner, that this matter be Adopted.**

Chairman Schmidt reported that a bid for replacement of the Police Station water heater was received reducing the amount of transfer required for account #10352-5260 to \$8,000 instead of \$30,000 but the Moderator reminded Chairman Schmidt that the RTM can't change a Council resolution.

The Town Clerk explained that a Council resolution can not be changed in any way by the RTM and must be either passed or rejected. She stated that a statement from the RTM to the Administration could be done stating the intent of the RTM that the expenditure not exceed the actual cost of repair in account #10352-5260.

Rep. Schmidt stated for the record that the RTM would like only the actual cost of \$8,000 for repair of the water heater be expended from the funds being transferred to account #10352-5260.

Lee Vincent acknowledged for the record that the funds would be expended with that understanding and that this would allow \$21,700 to be returned to the Fund Balance along with the remaining Contingency to start the next fiscal year.

Assistant to the Town Manager Vincent responded to Rep. Sebastian stating that retirement expenditures vary from year to year. He stated that the General Fund Contingency is the proper account to make adjustments for the actual current year retirement expenditures.

Rep. Schmidt responded to Rep. Sebastian's inquiry about Referral 2004-0242 (Impact of Health Insurance & Retirement Costs on Future Budgets) stating that she has arranged a presentation to the entire RTM on the actuarial report, the current contracts and their implication for the amounts paid at the time of retirements. She is aiming for the July meeting.

The motion carried unanimously.

## **2. COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Pratt**

*No meeting, no report.*

## **3. EDUCATION**

### **a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Newsome**

*No meeting, no report.*

## **4. HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES**

### **a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman DeMatto**

*No meeting, no report.*

## **5. RECREATION**

### **a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Power**

*No meeting, no report.*

## **6. PUBLIC SAFETY**

### **a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Vivirito**

*No meeting, no report.*

## **7. PUBLIC WORKS**

### **a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Collins**

*No meeting, no report.*

## **8. RULES & PROCEDURES**

### **a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Weil**

*No meeting, no report.*

## **I. OTHER BUSINESS**

*Rep. Power requested that School Superintendent Dr. Mitchell be invited to an RTM meeting to*

*explain his plan to improve school test scores.*

*Rep. Steere would like to recommend to the Town Council that a committee be established to study and prepare for the impact on the Town and surrounding Community in the event that the Sub Base remains on the BRAC list. She asked that the committee include residents.*

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion to adjourn at 8:13 p.m. was made by Rep. Miner, seconded by Rep. Swift and so voted unanimously.*

*Attest:*

*Barbara Tarbox, Town Clerk  
Clerk of the RTM*

*Sally A. Whitney, Assistant Town Clerk*